

## Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: AID/OST COMMENTS ON REPORT OF MAHESHWAR DAYAL  
ON TOPIC (III) OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. THIS IS A THOUGHTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PAPER WITH SOME  
NEW THINKING. HOWEVER, USDEL SHOULD APPROACH CAUTIOUSLY  
BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL FOR GREATLY ENLARGED SCIENCE PROGRAM.  
INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGING UNESCO TO SEEK GREATER FOCUS ON  
PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE,  
SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, NEED FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY,  
TECHNOLOGIES FOR DISASTER WARNING AND AMELIORATION, THE  
THRUST OF THE REPORT IS FOR A GREATER SCATTERING OF UNESCO  
EFFORTS IN SCIENCE. THERE SEEMS LITTLE EFFORT TO WEIGH  
THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH UNESCO CAN DO BETTER THAN BILATERAL  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES AGAINST PROJECTS WHICH ARE  
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BETTER SUITED FOR BILATERAL EFFORTS. MORE DETAILED COM-  
MENTS FOLLOW:

2. (PARA 13) USEFUL FOR THE SUBJECTS LISTED; UNESCO COULD  
PROBABLY BE MORE SUCCESSFUL AT THIS THAN OTHER AGENCIES.
3. (PARA 18) IMPRACTICAL, BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF INTER-

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE.

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FICULT FOR SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL BODY TO JUDGE POTENTIAL  
IMPACT OF RESEARCH PROPOSED UPON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND  
THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR SUCH A BODY TO UNDERWRITE BASIC  
INVESTIGATIONS RATHER THAN FOCUSING UPON THE APPLICATION  
OF S AND T TO DEVELOPMENT. DIFFICULTY TO PRIORITIZE  
PROPOSALS WITHIN A COUNTRY AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

4. (PARA 19) INTERNATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE CONCEPT  
IMPRACTICAL--TOO COMPLEX TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. THE  
UNESCO REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION  
CENTERS HAVE HAD VERY LIMITED IMPACT OUTSIDE THE HOST  
COUNTRIES. THERE IS NO CLEARLY FELT DEMAND FOR SUCH  
SERVICES.

5. (PARA 23) SUCH REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE WOULD  
CONFRONT UNESCO WITH A HEAVY CONTINUING DRAIN ON RESOURCES  
WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DROP ONCE STARTED.

6. (PARA 33) STRONGLY SUPPORT SCIENCE AND INTEGRATED  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE  
EMPHASIS UPON THE CAPABILITY OF SELECTED TECHNOLOGIES TO  
ADDRESS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF BOTH THE RURAL AND URBAN  
POOR (THE POOR MAJORITY) WHEREVER IT IS FOUND. EXPAND-  
ING S AND T INFORMATION IN RURAL AREAS IS NOT THE ANSWER.  
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FOCUS SHOULD BE UPON DELIVERY OF TECHNOLOGIES SUITED TO  
THE POOR AND THEIR MOST URGENT NEEDS.

7. (PARA 26) UNESCO MUST FOCUS UPON THE APPLICATION OF  
S AND T TO LDC URGENT NEEDS, AND WE THEREFORE QUESTION  
INCREASED SUPPORT, IN THIS CONTEXT, FOR UNESCO BASIC SCIENCE  
ACTIVITY SUCH AS RADIO ASTRONOMY, ASTROPHYSICS, PARTICLE  
ACCELERATORS AND SPACE SCIENCES, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE  
ARGUED THERE COULD BE SPINOFF OF TECHNOLOGIES WITH  
PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS. FOCUS SHOULD BE ON BASIC HUMAN  
NEEDS--FOOD, ENERGY, DESERTIFICATION, FRESH WATER SUPPLY,  
FIREFOOD FOR RURAL AREAS, ETC.

8. (PARA 35) STRONGLY ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDATION TO SEE  
IF THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS CAN BE CUT DOWN, ESPECIALLY  
SO-CALLED PREPARATORY AND PRELIMINARY MEETINGS. CONCENT-  
RATE ON WORKSHOPS IN LDCS WHICH HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED  
OBJECTIVES AND FOR WHICH THE PRODUCT IS A SERIES OF  
SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION AND SUPPORT OF S AND  
T PROGRAMS.

9. (PARA 39) WE QUESTION UNESCO CAPABILITY TO ORGANIZE

AND ADMINISTER EFFECTIVE PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN  
THE SEVERAL FIELDS MENTIONED AS EXAMPLES. THIS MIGHT  
BE ACCOMPLISHED MORE EFFECTIVELY IN BILATERAL EFFORTS  
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CHRISTOHER

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